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applied to the skin. The animals reacted uniformly, always removing the clips from the side unaffected by the lesion in the brain, and in general not noticing them on the paralyzed side. The natural explanation is, of course, that the animal is unconscious of sensation upon that side. A more detailed account of these experiments may be looked for in an early number of the *Journal of Physiology*.

Preliminary Observations on Some Changes Caused in Nervous Tissues by Reagents Commonly Used to Harden Them. HENRY H. DONALDSON. Jour. of Morphology, Vol. IX., pp. 123-166. Boston, 1894.

This paper casts a shade of doubt over the records of brain weights as they are usually accepted. Unless it is known exactly how any particular brain has been treated before weighing, the weight as recorded may be anywhere between thirty per cent. too large and thirty per cent. too small. In general, bi-chromate of potash solutions swell, while alcohol has a tendency to shrink the brain, and these processes may even pass beyond the limits indicated above. A large number of experiments were made on sheep's brains in a number of different solutions, and the general reactions recorded. To have the research cover as much of the field as possible, these were then repeated upon sharks' brains and upon a series of human brains. Results were in all cases entirely similar. All possible variations of temperature, strength of solution, manner of cutting the brain, degree of dryness, drainage, age of individual, length of time post mortem, etc., were taken into careful account, so that with these data at hand, it is now possible to correct the weight of any given brain to its original weight when fresh.

In the gross changes, however, we have but a small part of the value of this research. The brain swells or shrinks on account of changes taking place in its tissue elements, the nerve cells. The sizes of these may, therefore, be far from normal, as given by the text-books. For consideration of this side of the subject, we must await a subsequent chapter. The paper should be in the hands of everyone who is contributing to neurological science. We confess to some disappointment in not finding an explicit set of directions for obtaining the most nearly correct weight of the brain possible, the outline of a method which would unify and make comparable the work of different observers. Gathering some such statement from the article, we should say that the brain should be weighed fresh, as it comes from the skull, with pia intact. A note should record whether the olfactory bulbs and pituitary body have been retained, and describe where the division between medulla and spinal cord has been made. The state of the blood vessels should also be described. If immediate weighing is not possible, careful note should be taken of all treatment to which it is subjected up to the time at which it is weighed.

An enormous amount of work has been condensed into little more than twenty pages by stating nearly all the results in tabular form. The tables, forty-eight in number, give the briefest and clearest statement of the case possible, and make the data easily accessible for reference.

Brain Preservation, with a Résumé of Some Old and New Methods. PIERRE A. FISH. The Wilder Quarter-Century Book, pp. 385-400, 1 Plate.

This will be found a convenient compendium of some of the better methods of brain preservation, chiefly with reference to